

SJC MOURNS LOSS OF S. GEORGE AQUIN O'CONNOR



Sister George Aquin O'Connor,
Past President of SJC

By Christina Ament

The entire St. Joseph's College community mourned the death of former college president S. George Aquin O'Connor on Thursday, November 15, 2007.

St. Joseph's College was a very different

place in 1969. Only women were enrolled, and there was only one campus. Enrollment was down as the college faced stiff competition from lower-costing City University of New York schools which had a policy of Open Admissions. St. Joe's was facing significant financial difficulties.

That was until S. George Aquin O'Connor, Chairperson of the Sociology Department, assumed the presidency of the college.

By 1997, the year she retired, St. Joseph's College was co-educational and had a student population of over 3000 on two campuses, one in Brooklyn and the other in Patchogue, Long Island.

By the time of her retirement, St. Joseph's was offering Master's degree programs and had achieved financial stability. It had also earned the reputation as one of the premier teacher-training colleges in all of New York City.

S. Elizabeth Hill, current president of the college and S. George's assistant for seventeen years (from 1980 to 1997), said, "S. George will be missed by all of us. She was a great gift to the college and her particular skills and talents were very needed. For 28 years, she worked and worked to make sure that the school would survive."

The college has both survived and thrived—an outgrowth of S. George's commitment to achieving excellence in all areas of education.

"S. George tried to bring people together to enable people to live together better," said S. Elizabeth. "Her sociological and spiritual background helped her to bring people together," she added.

S. George created the College Advisory Council in 1970, known today as CAC. This body consists of the president, members of the administration, faculty and students who meet regularly to provide input about the school. Particularly important is the voice of the students, who freely express their likes, dislikes, hopes and dreams for and about St. Joe's.

According to S. Elizabeth, "S. George listened intently to this group because she wanted not only to run a school, but to create a place for students to thrive."

Not surprisingly, the loss was felt on both campuses and many faculty members and students attended S. George's wake and funeral which were held November 18-20, 2007. Alumni of the college and members of the Board of Trustees were also in attendance as well as members of the

surrounding community who had tremendous respect and love for S. George.

Father Thomas Ahern of the Sociology Department at the Brooklyn campus gave the homily at the funeral. S. Mary Florence wrote the eulogy, which was read by S. Elizabeth.

Current students lined the church as an honor guard as the casket emerged and alumni provided another honor guard.

S. George passed away in a nursing facility where she was living for the last two weeks of her life because of an illness with which she suffered for nearly two years.

"She died during the night," said S. Elizabeth. "She slipped away. This was very merciful," she added.

S. George achieved so much for the college because she was not afraid to take the risks she did when she first became president.

"She was a mentor in so many ways," said S. Elizabeth. "S. George was inspiring, loving and challenging. She was warm, funny, witty, and good to be with. She was not just my boss, but a dear friend," she added.

The legacy of S. George Aquin O'Connor is visible to every student, faculty and staff member on both campuses, each time they enter the gates of St. Joseph's College.

'T WAS THE SEASON Holiday Fest Brightened Yule Season

By Nina Zito

The snow showed up a week later, but even its absence couldn't dampen the Christmas spirit that pervaded the SJC campus during 2007's Holiday Festival.

An entire series of events spotlighted the end of the fall semester, all endowed with a full measure of holiday cheer to usher in the Christmas season.

Earlier in the fall, the Child Study Club hosted a tag-making event where they made Christmas tree ornaments to be hung on the 'Giving Tree.' Each year, a Christmas tree is placed in the hallway of Tuohy Hall and tags indicated what gifts can be purchased for the residents of Providence House, a shelter for women in Brooklyn.

Dozens of tags are hung upon the tree, a testimony to the generosity of the SJC community, which has helped sponsor and support Providence House for years.

"I was very excited to see the Tree-Lighting Ceremony because I was anxious to see the tags we made hanging on the lit Christmas tree," said freshman Gia Vecchio.

The Tree-Lighting ceremony took place on Tuesday, December 4th and it marked over ten years of reaching out to the less fortunate in the community.

"The event was a huge success for the

Campus Ministry and Outreach Club and the Child Study Club," said senate representative Wynnee Ganthier. "It was for a great cause and everyone enjoyed it," she added.

The tags were put on the tree on November 19th and the gifts were delivered to Providence House on December 14th.

Any member of the SJC community was able

to buy an item represented on one of the tags. "It was heartwarming for me to know that I was helping a little boy or girl smile on Christmas morning," said freshman Cory Jones.

It would not be a Holiday Festival without children, and so the boys and girls of the Dillon Center were invited to participate in the festivities. Students and faculty members sang familiar Christmas songs such as "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" and "Frosty the Snowman" and candy canes were distributed to all the children.

And, of course, Santa himself made a surprise visit for the children and the kids got to take pictures with him and whisper their fondest hopes for the Christmas holiday.

"By participating in these traditions, we find a nice way to kick off the holiday season," said Jamie Vacca-Hoefner, adviser to CAB.

There was plenty to keep the adults busy during Holiday Festival as well. The annual raffle of Christmas Baskets took place in the auditorium of Tuohy Hall.

Each club and team was requested to supply a basket with items representative of their activity and these were all raffled off during the common hour Christmas Fest.

Food, fun, gifts, children, lighting of the Christmas Tree—the holidays came alive at St. Joe's in December and hopefully, that spirit of good cheer will carry forward into the new year.



Santa surprises Dillon kids



Samanta Labady with her raffle prize

EDITORIAL

TIME TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

You have to wonder if America is becoming a nation where personal responsibility is a thing of the past.

It starts young. Ask a grade schooler why he did not pass a test, and more than likely, the response will be, "My teacher stinks." or "My teacher is unfair." With an overwhelming number of answers of that ilk, it is not hard to come away with the impression that there *are* no good teachers in America.

Now we are in the midst of a national sub-prime mortgage crisis which is having a dire effect upon the entire economy of the country. No one forced homeowners to sign on the dotted line and accept an adjustable rate mortgage which could cap out at 5 or 6 points over prime. No one told these same homeowners that they could not have a lawyer present at closing to advise them of the ramifications of such speculative loans. They did it on their own—and now, they are turning to the government for a bailout that could cost the more responsible homeowners and taxpayers anywhere from 5 to 10 billion dollars.

They don't call them 'teaser' loans for nothing. A homeowner starts out paying 500 or 600 dollars less than what an apartment rents for in Brooklyn—and this goes on for some six months. Then, the rate starts to escalate so that within a year, the mortgage, plus taxes, plus insurance makes the loan untenable—and foreclosure follows shortly thereafter.

It is sad when people lose their homes—but is it the government's responsibility? Must Washington regulate absolutely everything in the lives of Americans?

It seems more prudent to fall back upon the Latin phrase at law that seems to cover these sub-prime loans: *caveat emptor* or, 'Let the buyer beware.'

How next will we avoid taking responsibility for our actions—and our mistakes? If you were to buy a Rolex watch from a street vendor for \$15, do you have the right to complain to the government when the watch dissolves in water the first time it rains? Or should you have suspected that anything that cheap *is* cheap—and not the real thing?

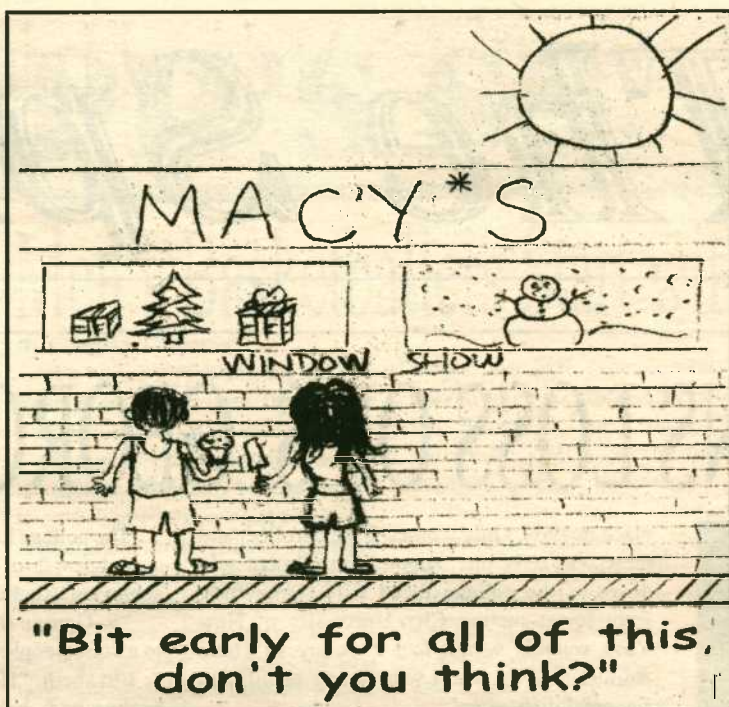
Some years back, a woman sued McDonald's because she put a hot cup of coffee between her legs and scalded herself the first time her car hit a bump. It wasn't her fault for being abysmally stupid—it was McDonald's fault for serving hot coffee. Once again, it is so much easier to point fingers and avoid personal responsibility than to admit that we made a mistake—or were just plain dumb.

It is a little bit like the thief who breaks into a house, is shot in the leg by the homeowner—and then sues the owner for medical expenses and grievous mental anguish. And what is more remarkable is that our court system is apt to find in favor of the thief!

One might argue that years ago, the federal government bailed out Chrysler Corporation which was one step away from financial dissolution. Years later, the Savings and Loan industry was bailed out by Washington. Why not the sub-prime mortgage industry?

There is a case for saving the jobs of tens of thousands of workers who suffered because of corporate-level mismanagement. But can such a case be made for someone who signs his name on a mortgage and then finds that he can not make the payments?

Perhaps. But to do so strikes a blow for irresponsibility over common sense—and that can never be a good thing.



THE SPIRIT

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VERBILIZATIONS

By Jaclyn Verbil

PUSHING THE SEASON – TO THE LIMIT

Ah yes, it's the most wonderful time of the year! 'Tis the season to be jolly, to stand on ridiculously long shopping lines, to string lights, to drink egg nog and to sing carols.

Christmas time! Is it just me, or does it seem like the Christmas season approaches sooner and sooner each year? I mean, it feels like we just celebrated Christmas not so very long ago, and already Wal-Mart is advertising pre-Christmas savings—for 2008!

Do you even remember Halloween, or did we skip that one entirely? For me, it's just a distant memory. Think about all those costumes, candy corn bags and black and orange jellybeans that lined the shelves of every store from Target to Shoprite. By November 1st, it was as if a witch waved her wand and cleared the shelves, relining them with Christmas gear. The Halloween stuff is in a bin off to the side marked down 75%. And the leaves hadn't even fallen off the trees yet!

Wreaths and garlands were hung, lights strung and holiday music hauled out. Whatever happened to Thanksgiving? Thanksgiving—you know, that holiday in November when we give thanks and stuff our faces with mountains of food?

Turkey day is now perceived as the starting blocks for Black Friday—

a pit stop for the real reason for that particular season—the madness of getting up at 2 AM to be first on line at Toys-R-Us.

The first sign of the approaching season? Ridiculously early store hours! Some stores open before the sun has risen so that shoppers can buy DVD players for 15 bucks or gaming systems for 600.

Me? I cannot even fathom the madness that accompanies that day—the long lines, the crowds fighting and clawing for the last remaining sale item, the rowdy and arrogant people who think they have the divine right to cross-body block you if they think you will get to a sale bins first.

No, this isn't exactly my cup of tea. I'd rather avoid the traffic jams by heading over to the World Wide Web to do my shopping. But still, does it have to be so early?

Toy catalogues are yet another indicator of the hastily approaching season. Children patiently (yeah, right) await their delivery and often check the mailbox about every five minutes or so. They begin to compile their wish lists in April and every day they seem to add a new item. They are very vocal about letting parents know that if they don't get every item on their list, their holidays will be incomplete and miserable. Such parental cruelty as not purchasing everything on the wish list might even

warrant a phone call to Child Services. Oh the abuse!

While shopping, avarice and covetousness seem to increase every season, the emphasis on faith and attendance at religious services seems to be in disproportional decline. We become so enthralled in the materialistic mess of buying, that we often forget about the true reason for the season.

This is, of course, abetted by advertisements, jingles, and celebrity spokespersons whose single message seems to be "Buy—or ELSE!"

You can search the FM dial for days until you can find some traditional Christmas Music—unless you regard "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" as a hallmark of the season.

Don't get me wrong: giving is a good thing—if done in careful moderation. Here is my advice for balancing the spiritual with the commercial: attend a regular service or mass. Put on your combat gear and head into the crowds. Shop in increments and only buy what is absolutely necessary.

And don't forget about a young child born across the water there in a place called Bethlehem. Last I checked, HE had something to do with the holiday too.

Yes, it's the Christmas season again and aren't we all thrilled. After all—it's already January!

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE EDITORS AND STAFF
OF 'THE SPIRIT'
ON THEIR THIRD CONSECUTIVE
NATIONAL FIRST PLACE AWARD
FOR EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM!**



Royal Steppers entertain at Midday Madness



THE TECH HEAD

BY ROBERT MARRIELLO

FOR THE GEARHEAD WHO HAS EVERYTHING

Here I am again, the Tech Head, ready to regale you with more stories and information about the technological world.

I've got some new things to talk about with you this month, and if you want even further information, you can go to Thinkgeek.com, since I haven't the room here for everything that's going on.

Let's talk about cell phones. These days, anyone who's anyone or even no one, has to have a cell phone, and usually one with a camera, web access, music player, text messenger, Bluetooth, red tooth, teleportation, and of course, microwave/covection oven.

Yes, yes, I'm kidding about most of the above, but there are some phones that do offer extraordinary features. The first one is for the music lover. It's a palm-sized phone that literally doubles as a mini-boombox. This cell phone not only plays any music you store there, it also will take pictures and video, has expandable memory, has a speaker phone option and slides open to reveal the numerical keypad.

Another phone that will turn heads is a Touch Screen Cell phone/PDA wristwatch. Yes, you heard me—a wristwatch, as in your Dick Tracy/Power Ranger dream come true. Capable of text messaging, playing music and videos, Bluetooth and most things an average PDA can do, the only downside seems to be that the watch's screen is a bit small and you can only use it if you have T-Mobile or AT&T/Cingular service.

Here's some more interesting items discussed extensively at ThinkGeek.com. Two keychains are available for sale that might be of interest to you. One is the Electronic Bubble Wrap keychain and the second is the Doomsday Device keychain. The first one consists of 8 rubber buttons that when pressed cause it to make a popping noise, as with normal

bubble wrap. The difference is that after 100 pops, it makes a random noise that could be a dog barking, or something rude.

The Doomsday Device keychain will not, as its name indicates, destroy the world, no matter how many times you press it. It does, however, count down and then make an explosion noise which will give you some slight satisfaction.

Now, for the geek who has everything, hold on to your hats. There are some shirts that have light up displays on their fronts. These range from simple ones that show a repeating image of the game 'Pong' and Transformers symbols that light up in segments, to shirts that react to the environment and show sound bars based on the ambient sound in the area. There is even one that shows the strength of nearby wi-fi signals.

Imagine going on a first date wearing one of these babies! Talk about dressing to impress! And, there are even more styles available. Again, see Thinkgeek.com for details.

Now it's time for Fact or Fake. Last time I challenged you to figure out which was the fake item in a choice of three. The options were a single slice toaster that let you toast messages on the the bread, a self-tuning guitar, and sunglasses with a GPS display built in. The correct answer is the sunglasses.

I based this one on a prototype for a belt that with vibrating motors from pagers and a GPS processor would vibrate the belt to let you know which way to go.

This time, I'm going to give you three options and only one is real. The options are based upon the lovable Star Wars character R2-D2. Which ones of these were redesigned to look like the rolling robot wonder: a trash can, a salt shaker, or a laundry basket?

The answer will be in next month's column. So until then, this is the Tech Head—logging off.

Midday Madness Again Highlights Fall Term

Roundballers and Dancers Kick Off Basketball Season

By Katarzyna Topczewska

With the varsity basketball seasons in full swing, it is not difficult to forget that the entire year's competition was ushered in by Midday Madness—the annual introduction of the Men's and Women's squads and the Dance and Step Teams.

This year's Midday madness took place on November 7th in the gym in Tuohy Hall during common hour. To say the least, like no other year, drama was in evidence every step of the way.

With the lights dimmed, music from a DJ pulsing in the background and a smoke machine clouding the hardwood floor, Emcee Mike Barthelemy stepped forward to introduce SJC Athletic Director and Lady Bears Basketball Coach Frank Carbone.

Coach Carbone, the 'Father' and innovator of Midday Madness, said a few words to the crowd about his hopes for the coming season and then Barthelemy introduced the first performers of the day, the Dance Team. Each girl was called out

individually and then the entire team did a number.

This was followed by a performance by the SJC Royal Steppers Step Team, who will be joining the Dance Team at home basketball games to entertain during halftime.

Midday Madness also featured some fun audience-participation activities. Coach Carbone invited all the spectators to check their programs for four special signatures. The four students who had the signatures were called to the gym floor where they were divided into two teams. The teams had to help each other put on SJC attire, blow up two thunder sticks, and make a layup. The winners received cash prizes for their efforts.

The Lady Bears Basketball Team was then presented to the crowd. "This is an exciting event for the players because it is amazing to be a freshman and see how everything comes together for the season," said Allison Kavanagh.

The Men's team was introduced

next followed by a second performance by the Step and Dance Teams. Then, the new men's fraternity made a surprise guest appearance.

"I believe Midday Madness made students aware of some of the sporting events that take place at SJC and hopefully, it will lead to bigger crowds at games," said junior Przemyslaw Kudla.

This year marked the eighth season for Midday Madness, and event patterned upon Midnight Madness which takes place at big-time basketball schools.

"Don't let our size fool you," said Coach Carbone. "For a small school, we accomplish big things, and the spectacular success of Midday Madness is an example of what we can do here," he added.

Once the excitement of Midday Madness had dissipated, both basketball squads realized that the real business of getting down to collegiate competition lay ahead.

SJC Newspaper Wins Third Consecutive First Place Award

The Spirit Cited for Excellence by ASPA

By Ashley Pucciarelli

Yes! Chalk up another win for SJC's resident newspaper, *The Spirit*. The American Scholastic Press Association announced the winners of their annual journalism contest and critique, and for the third year in a row, *The Spirit* took first place.

The ASPA judge commended editors-in-chief Christina Ament and Tara Vafiadou for handling the many challenges and complexities of publishing a college newspaper—and doing so with a relatively small publication staff.

"Your group has been quite successful in mastering many of the aspects of newspaper publishing. My congratulations go to all those involved in the newspaper," said the judge in the published critique.

Particularly strong in the judge's estimation was the editing, which garnered 95 out of a possible 100 points, and creativity, which also earned a 95 out of 100.

Over 2000 schools participated in this year's annual competition, so *The Spirit* found itself in very exclusive company as a First Place Award winner.

"I am very proud of the editors and the staff this year," said Director of Student Publications Dr. Howard Weiner. "We overcame some heavy-duty obstacles to get the paper out this year, but we also added some key players to the staff, which was enormously helpful," he added.

Three notable additions to the staff were columnist Jackie Verbil and reporter and layout editor Kasia Topczewska and reporter Nina Zito.

"These freshmen are quality writers and are very dedicated to the paper," said Dr. Weiner. "It is my hope that the three of them will step up and take over the reigns of the paper as co-editors-in-chief," he added.

Dr. Weiner also commended his veteran staff of columnists, writers and photographers, noting, "They are the backbone of the paper and I rely upon them each edition for their ideas and creativity."

The ASPA judge noted that a larger staff could provide more variety to the paper in both ideas for features and articles and in photography.

"We are always trying to recruit new writers," said editor-in-chief Tara Vafiadou, "and we stress that no experience is necessary. We train all our writers how to write journalistically as soon as they express interest in joining the staff," she added.

What lies ahead for *The Spirit*? "We've talked about adding another

issue during the school year," said editor-in-chief Christina Ament, "but this is difficult to do with such a small staff. Perhaps if we can grow in numbers, that would be feasible," she added.

Assistant editor John Castaldo has suggested running the title of the paper in color to attract more attention, but that would considerably increase the cost per issue.

"Besides, circulation is not our problem," said Dr. Weiner. "The paper disappears as soon as it hits the campus. There are very few copies left each issue," he added.

The Spirit has now taken three consecutive First Place awards from the ASPA and Dr. Weiner has stated that he sees no reason why a four-in-a-row is beyond the realm of possibility.

"If the staff keeps up its high level of performance and dedication, we should be able to stay on top for many years to come," said Dr. Weiner.



Editor Christina Ament with latest National Award

Chapel Players a Big Hit With Musical Production

Godspell Returns Group To Musical Theater

By Rhomesia Ramkellowan

For the first time in six years, the musical returned to the SJC stage in November as the Chapel Players put on a production of the Broadway smash hit, *Godspell*.

Based upon the "Gospel of St. Matthew," *Godspell* was conceived by John Michael-Tebelak with music and new lyrics by Stephen Schwartz.

The show presents a whimsical view of Jesus, his disciples and followers, as they re-enact scenes from his life.

The show has interesting production values. The stage is almost completely blank (set requirements thus being held to a minimum), and the lighting adds a subtlety and nuance to every scene of the show.

Costuming too is minimalist and was basically culled from the cast's closets, following director Tom Hoefner's dictum to "dress as yourself times 1000."

The songs were simple melodies, with one huge hit emerging from the show: "Day by Day." But the tunes were engaging and members of the audience found themselves humming the melodies as they exited the auditorium of Tuohy Hall.

"I liked how the entire show was put together," said sophomore Jessica Jeudy. "The Chapel Players were delightful to watch and I really had a great time," she added.

Jaime Vacca-Hoefner, Moderator to Chapel Players and choreographer of *Godspell* pointed out that even

though the show is non-traditional and has no specific dance style, she tried to incorporate as much dancing into the show, utilizing tap, modern and Fosse-style numbers.

The Music Director for *Godspell* was Lynn Portas, SJC Choral Society Director. This marked her first collaboration with Chapel Players.

For director Tom Hoefner, he begins his 5th year at the helm of Chapel Players and *Godspell* is the first musical since the spring of 2001.

"Overall, the show was great," said sophomore Sally Demosthene. "The lighting and music were terrific and the actors delivered their lines clearly and they fell into their roles gracefully," she added.

As with every other Chapel Players show, the group sold T-shirts, held a fifty-fifty raffle and collected donations for Broadway Cares. Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS is a not-for-profit AIDS fundraising and grant-making organization that raises funds for AIDS-related cases across the United States.

This year's cast included Christian Branch, John Dasaro, Jaclyn Collins, Nicole Guliano, Brianne Reilly, Rachael Smagala, Adam Mace, Anthony Catalanotti, Patricia Garcia, Marie Yves Guisment, Andrea Rosado and Daniel Velez.

The live band included Mike Multari playing guitar and Lynn Portas on Piano.

Chris Burke ('07) and the Admis-

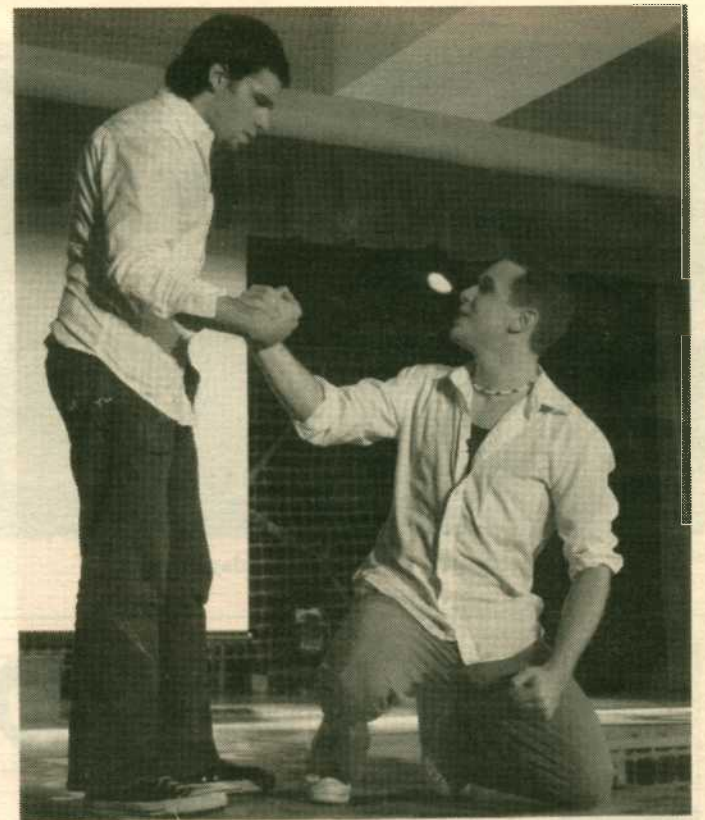
sions Staff provided the set and lighting designs for the show.

Newcomer to Chapel Players is Marie Yves Guisment, who said of the show, "*Godspell* was an amazing experience. I had so much fun performing and interacting with the cast. If I could, I would do it all over again. What made it even more amazing was the fact that I got to share it with the people I care about the most: my friends and family."

Audience reaction to the show was also very positive. "The smaller audience enhanced the entire experience," said S. Mary Maier, "and the lead, played by John Dasaro, was truly excellent. He wasn't just acting, but experiencing everything that was happening around him," she added.

S. Mary's comments were echoed by other members of the faculty: "I am still feeling the glow of the wonderful show I saw on Friday night," said Dr. Stanley Nevins of the Philosophy Department. "This production was as entertaining as many Broadway shows I have seen." Dr. Jill Rehmann of the Chemistry Department added, "I loved the stage and set and thought the singing was very professional. It was an overall perfect experience and I will be sure never to miss a Chapel Players show."

With the success of *Godspell*, Chapel Players and director Tom Hoefner will get to consider when they will present their next musical production.



Adam Mace as Judas and John Dasaro as Jesus in *Godspell*



The Culture Vulture

By Nick Souleotis

BIG NAMES IN THE NEWS

I am pleased to announce that *American Idol*'s Clay Aiken will be joining the cast of the Broadway hit, *Spamalot* starting on January 18, 2008.

Aiken is best known for his platinum albums entitled *Measure of a Man* and *Merry Christmas with Love*. His run in the Monty Python take on the Arthurian legends will continue through May 4.

As a hardcore Clay Aiken fan, I intend to be there opening night to cheer him on. He has also written a national bestselling book entitled, *Learning to Sing*. I recommend the book to any Aiken fan.

Spamalot is playing at the Sam S. Schubert Theater at 225 West 44th Street and tickets for Clay Aiken's run are now on sale.

Also notable in a season marred by the stagehand's strike, is the fact that *Nsync*'s Lance Bass joined the cast of *Hairspray* and performed the role of Cory until January 3.

He has also written an inspirational memoir that was released earlier this month called *Out of Sync*. In the book, Bass speaks about his difficult journey dealing with his sexual orientation as well as the difficulties of growing up in the public's eye.

November 19th saw the emergence of two members of the cast of *The Sopranos* as bona fide Broadway performers. On that date, Aida Turturro and Vincent Pastore joined the cast of *Chicago* and stayed with the show through the Christmas holidays. The long-running Bob Fosse gem is at the Ambassador Theater at 219 West 49th Street.

It saddens me to mention the passing of a real Broadway legend: Robert Goulet, who died on October

30, 2007, at age 73.

Goulet died in a Los Angeles hospital while awaiting a lung transplant necessitated by a rare lung disease with which he suffered through his latter years.

Best known as Sir Lancelot in the original production of Lerner and Lowe's *Camelot*, he went on to a lengthy career on Broadway, television and the concert stage. In addition, he released over 20 albums during his career.

Robert Goulet's signature tune was "If Ever I Would Leave You," from the score of *Camelot*. He was most recently seen on Broadway in *La Cage aux Folles*.

He was once married to *West Side Story* star Carol Lawrence, and he leaves behind two sons, Michael and Joseph, by his second wife, Vera.

Finally, here's a book you might find very interesting. Richard Chamberlain, star of television, stage and screen, has penned a memoir entitled *Shattered Love*. I found his stories of growing up poor and having a troubled relationship with his parents very informative.

He describes some difficult periods in his career when his professional life was not going well and he also allows the reader insights into his struggles with his sexuality and stature in Hollywood as a leading man.

Shattered Love is a welcome addition to the catalogue of autobiographies by iconic show business figures. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Until next month then, remember, New York City is the cultural capital of the world—so take advantage of it.

Yearbook Sets Deadline for All Ads

Seniors Still Have Time to File Copy and Forms

By Bala Huseinovic

There's not a lot of time left, so members of the Class of 2008 are reminded that the deadline for submitting ads to *Footprints 2008* is rapidly approaching.

Yearbook editor-in-chief Christina Ament reminds her classmates that the deadline for all submissions is February 27th, 2008.

"We have sent out several letters and email blasts to both Arts and Sciences and P & G students, reminding them about the ads," said Ament, "but thus far, they have been fairly slow in being returned," she added.

The delay in submitting ads was understandable, according to Dr. Howard Weiner, Director of Student Publications.

"With the Christmas season just having past, its not surprising that returning an ad form was not the highest priority of students," he said, "but now, with the new term having begun, we expect the ads to be forthcoming," he added.

Not only do yearbook ads help to subsidize the very high cost of publishing the yearbook, but they are a nice way for parents, family

members and friends to send greetings and congratulations to a special graduate of 2008.

The ads range in size from a full page (\$180) to an eighth of a page (\$25) and all sizes can be printed in full color. Photographs can also be included in the ad, though the eighth page size is too small to include any pictures.

"In the past, we have raised thousands of dollars for the yearbook from proud parents and friends who have placed ads in *Footprints*," said Dr. Weiner.

But he also noted that with over 100 graduates in Arts and Sciences and another 100+ in P & G, he would like to see many more ads placed.

When submitting ads, they can be 'camera ready' or the yearbook staff can set the type based upon the copy that the purchaser provides.

"I'm very anxious for my family to take an ad because it will be something I can look back on in future years with great pride," said senior John Castaldo. "I also am involved in a few businesses that plan on taking full page ads, so I think that will help the yearbook out

a lot," he added.

Members of the yearbook staff canvas the neighborhood soliciting ads from restaurants, banks and other businesses that are part of the St. Joseph's College surrounding community.

Most of the offices on campus also take ads in the yearbook, and so congratulating the graduates becomes a school-wide function.

Ads and accompanying checks should be sent to the Office of Student Life care of Sherrie VanArman. The checks should be made out to St. Joseph's College and the copy for the ad should be placed on the ad form.

Additional ad forms may be obtained in the Publications Office, Room 607 St. Angela Hall.

Footprints 2008 will be the largest and most comprehensive yearbook that SJC has ever published. But such a vast undertaking requires a great deal of money, and any ad—no matter what size—would be a great help in maintaining the prize-winning caliber of the yearbook.

Remember: February 27, 2008 is the absolute final deadline for all ad submissions.

Founder's Day Lecture Celebrates New York City

By Tara Vafiadou

Each year, the St. Joseph's College Founders Day Lecture gives students, faculty members and residents of the community an opportunity to hear a notable speaker discourse upon a topic of general interest to the diverse audience.

Monday, October 22, 2007 saw this year's speaker, James Sanders, welcomed to St. Joseph's to make the principal address.

James Sanders is a man of many accomplishments. A graduate of Columbia University, he began as an architect and urban designer with a great interest in the City of New York.

Mr. Sanders used his fascination with New York as the springboard to his speech, which was entitled, "Ever-Changing City: New York Past, Present and Future."

He is well-qualified to speak on the subject. Among his many achievements, Mr. Sanders co-wrote with Rick Burns, the PBS series, "New York: A Documentary Film." He has also co-authored the companion volume, *New York: An Illustrated History*.

Mr. Sanders explained in his speech how his interest in New York City began as an outgrowth of the relationship between older films and the city itself. In his speech, he showed the connection between the idea of change and how it relates to the city itself.

He began talking about the seasonal changes experienced by New York City and how the entertainment industry has dramati-

cally been modified over the years.

He then explained how national and international events in America and the world as a whole are shaping the present day. Mr. Sanders maintains that not until September 11, 2001, did society fully realize the idea of change.

A third important issue that he addressed was the immigrant population of the United States. It is his belief that the waves of immigration at the turn of the century and in the modern period have helped to shape and make New York City into what it is today. It has been transformed into one of the most diverse cities in the world and while the original immigrants came from places like Germany and Ireland, they now hail from all over the world. Past immigrants experienced as much change in their lives and societies as do modern ones.

Another interesting point Mr. Sanders made was that in general, the past and present tend to shape the future. For that reason, policies made today must be carefully considered because of the effect they may have upon future generations.

Growth—phenomenal growth—is another major part of the New York City story. From a population of only 33,000 in 1790, New York City's population has exploded to more than 8 million people today.

With such an increase in population, profound changes took place in New York City. Many of these changes have occurred in the area of transportation, starting with the Erie Canal in the 19th century, to the

building of parkways, highways and rail terminals that could move people from the outskirts of the city to the heart of Manhattan.

Sanders notes that it took men of vision to implement such changes in the face of New York. He cited men like Governor DeWitt Clinton, whose idea for the Erie Canal helped open up the West, and master builder Robert Moses, who revolutionized housing and transportation, as particularly notable shapers of New York City's infrastructure.

He also made clear that many of the signs of progress we take for granted today were built upon the sacrifices of earlier generations, who gave up their homes and land so that the city could progress.

In keeping with the notion of changing for the future, Mr. Sanders spoke about Mayor Michael Bloomberg's "Plan NYC," which advocates the growth of affordable housing to accommodate the increasing population, the building of parks that are within ten minutes walking time from apartment dwellings, transportation pricing plans, and making the city more open, cultural and prosperous to newcomers.

He regarded Mayor Bloomberg's plan for a 'Green' New York City by 2030 as visionary and unprecedented in the entire country.

The final impression that James Sanders made upon his audience was that the future is coming fast and that New York City must find a balance for "the city that was, the city that is, and the city that will be."



The Individualist

By Michael Labeit

FIGHTING RACISM—WITH RACISM

The string of recent racially charged incidents and "noose-happiness" has been the source of increased anger and hostility within the black community. Black bitterness is understandable, yet there is, however, a proper way of assessing the issue of racism and a wrong way.

Racism is more than just the doctrine that asserts that certain races are superior to others. Fellow individualist and journalist Joseph Kellard holds that racism "is a form of collectivism: the belief that an individual's identity is determined by his unchosen physiological characteristics—and not by his chosen values and actions."

It is indeed a derivative or irrationalism, as it is certainly not congruent with reality, yet can be exhibited by all, regardless of race. This fact is, at best, accepted implicitly today—racism in America is almost routinely associated with, specifically, white supremacy.

Countering racism with more racism, irrationalism with more irrationalism, as such, isn't a positive prescription for peace. The group, "Stop Hate on Columbia's Campus" has a list of "demands," two of which are: 1) "We demand that the Office of Admissions more aggressively target students from underrepresented communities" and 2) "We demand...more aggressive recruitment of tenure-track faculty from underrepresented communities."

Underrepresented communities is a euphemism for minority communities. "Stop Hate" seeks to 'stop hate' and racism with policies designed to hire and accept professors and students based on "unchosen physiological characteristics" and not on their academic credentials, work ethic, or values and virtues. This and other affirmative-action like policies, as you can

see, only reciprocate the racism and fuel more resentment.

"Hate crime" laws, anti-discrimination laws, and reparations claims are just as aggravating. The phrase 'hate crime' is a redundancy—all crimes are committed out of hatred or disrespect. I've never heard of a 'goodwill' or 'benevolent' crime outside of the tales of Robin Hood. All that matters is that the initiation of force or fraud be punished.

Anti-discrimination laws violate individual rights, specifically the right to freely associate. Employers should have the right to hire and fire who they want on their property. Businessmen and employers walk what economist Lew Rockwell dubs the "civil rights minefield" every day they don't have the 'required' number of minority employees demanded by 'the bureaucrats at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He goes on to say, "Civil rights lawsuits are shutting down businesses daily. Many potential capitalists decide not to open businesses for fear of the government's equality policy."

Reparations is perhaps the most asinine of the group, with economist Walter Williams asking the evaded question, "What moral principle justifies forcing a white of today to pay a black of today for what a white of yesteryear did to a black of yesteryear?" Also, how 'black' must one be to receive reparations? 1/2? 1/4? 1/8? Ridiculousness.

Only one thing can justify racism or better yet, escape the necessity of justification: emotion. One doesn't justify the irrational—one only emotionally clings to it. Racism is based not on reason, but on an emotional urge. Therefore, we must advocate reason in order to stop racism and collectivism, not additional racism.

Karaoke – For the Brave of Heart

By Tara Vafiadou

In Japan, where it was invented, it ranks as a national craze along with besoboru (baseball) and sumo wrestling. Karaoke, the open mic phenomenon which lets the meek and brave alike get up and sing, is becoming a widespread trend in the United States.

It's not always the outgoing ones who get up and grab a microphone at a Karaoke party. Sometimes it's the quiet types who you would never expect to perform in public.

Such was the case at November 15's Karaoke Party hosted by CAB in the auditorium of Tuohy Hall. The talented, the not-so-talented, the shy, the comedic—all were in evidence at a rousing event that brought the audience to its feet each time a new performer stepped up to the mic.

"I think it's great when people have enough guts to get up and sing, even though they might not have any formal training in singing at all," said junior Lori Bastien. "I know they all are doing something I wouldn't dream of doing," she added.

To supplement the music of the DJ, sheets of music and lyrics were placed on every table in the auditorium as a lure to those students with hidden talents who were just itching to get up and show off their vocal chops.

"I had such a blast with my friends and seeing them embarrass themselves," said Amanda Gavigan. "It was all good fun," she added.

Some of the performances even had the benefit of backup musicians and dancers. And the variety of the music was stunning.

Robert Marriello offered "This Love" of Marron Five and the sisters of Beta Upsilon Delta sorority sang the Cyndi Lauper classic, "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" (the Lolly version).

Other pop stars who had their songs represented were Mary J. Blige ("Be Without You") and Nelly Furtado ("Promiscuous").

Broadway and Hollywood also got their at bats at the Karaoke Party. An up and coming girl group

consisting of Nina Zito, Gia Vecchio, Jaclyn Faight and Jenna DeFelipo performed "Summer Lovin'" from the Broadway smash *Grease*.

"This was a really fun event and I would definitely recommend it again for next year," said Alyssa Devivo.

It wouldn't have been an SJC event without the obligatory lunch, so the cafeteria provided a menu of hot finger foods including chicken fingers, pizza and mozzarella sticks for the karaoke fans.

The Karaoke Party had been an event originally conceived by the Student Ambassadors Club and had been a campus staple for five years. This year, CAB took over the organization of the event and its revival has proven so successful, that they are planning to bring it back each year as a regular campus event.

"I thought it was great to see my friends get up and sing the way they did," said Kasia Topczewska. "Maybe next year I'll give it a try," she added.

COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

Know your American History? You can win a \$25 gift card to Best Buy! Just be the first to answer these few questions and bring your answers to Room 607 St. Angela Hall!

1. Who was the 1st President of the United States? (Hint: Not G. Washington. There were 8 before him).
2. Benedict Arnold was the hero of the Battle of Saratoga—but who got the credit for the victory?
3. What U.S. warship was known as "The Fighting Lady"?
4. Who was the Union commanding general at Gettysburg?
5. Who was President during the "Teapot Dome" scandal?
6. America has only had one 6 Star general. Who was he?

7. Who was the first female United States senator?
8. Where do we find the line, "These are the times that try men's souls?"
9. What was Abraham Lincoln's favorite poem? (Hint: It's by H. Wadsworth Longfellow).
10. Technically, what U.S. president is *still* listed as a traitor and a rebel?
11. When asked to surrender during the Battle of the Bulge, what American general responded, "Nuts!"
12. What is the significance of "To Anacreon in Heaven?"
13. Why were the U.S. destroyers USS Maddox and USS C. Turner Joy so important?
14. In peacetime, under whose jurisdiction does the U.S. Coast Guard fall?



MUSIC NOTES

By John Castaldo

WHAT'S OUR MUSICAL LEGACY?

During the intersession and summer break, I painstakingly organize a preliminary set-list of songs for the SJC Jazz Ensemble to play at the upcoming semester's performances. In each case, the set-list includes popular songs from years past. Each time I develop a set-list, I sit back and analyze it. There are very few (if any) songs from the last ten years. This begs the question: "What music is our generation going to be left with when we grow old?"

Our great-grandparents had the music of Al Jolson, George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Cole Porter and Paul Whiteman. Our grandparents had the music of Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Benny Goodman, Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Andy Williams, Judy Garland and countless others. Our parents had Motown, the Beatles and the rest of the British Invasion, the Beach Boys, Elvis, disco, doo-wop, punk rock and the Golden Age of Country Music.

Even the generation that grew up in the 1980s had New Wave, Bruce Springsteen, John Mennencamp and a rock n' roll revival. The youths of the early '90s grew up on the Seattle sound.

At almost every wedding, anniversary or birthday party I have been to, I have heard major disco hits that have stood the test of time. The Trammps "Disco Inferno," Tavares "Heaven Must Be Missing an Angel," Donna Summer's "Last Dance," and dare I mention it, "YMCA" by the Village People. I can't count the number of times I have slow-danced to "The Way You Look Tonight," just as our parents and grandparents danced to this music, though by different artists and with different charts.

But what of us? When we are in our 40s, 50s or 60s, what are we going to dance to?

Currently, the top downloaded song on iTunes is Flo Rida's "Low" (Featuring T-Pain). How many of us can see ourselves at 65 dancing to music like this? Something tells me that when lovely Josephine tries to bump-and-grind like she did when she was 20, an ambulance

will have to be in attendance. And someone might have to tel DJ Mike to have an oxygen tank at the ready in case granny gets a bit winded.

The music of our generation is made to sell now, but it has no 'legs.' It is so unmemorable that it wasn't designed for future generations.

Yes, I know, I frequently rant and rave about the state of modern music—but there is some justification to my ravings.

A close friend of mine, a fabulous and brilliantly creative musician and writer, recently told me that he sees no point in continuing to compose worthwhile music. He is now working on a sex-symbol image and attempting to write (and I am sure he will be successful) dance music, which, I might add, is all electronic sound. Gone are his soulful lyrics and pulsating rhythm section.

Ask yourself, how many songs do you download when they first come out? Now ask yourself how many do you still listen to? I would guess hardly any. Music of today simply does not enter the standard repertoire of American music. It does not hold up to time.

Think about it: whenever you hear a song that once was popular, you might have a vague recollection of it and say, "Wow—I remember that—sort of." Contrast this to what your mom might say when she hears the old Whitney Houston song, "Didn't We Almost Have it All?" She probably says, "Oh my God! I haven't heard this song in so long! I love this song!" It's a totally different reaction to music that was memorable and music that was—well, just *there* for the moment.

Now don't get me wrong. There is still good and memorable music in today's market, but, and this is all important, the frequency with which good music is produced and marketed today is much less than in decades gone by.

It all comes down to you—the listener/buyer. Stop buying and listening to cheap studio-manufactured garbage that is not musical! That will put pressure on record companies to market and produce quality music.

Maybe that way, our generation will have a musical legacy to leave behind to the next generation.

Alumni in the Spotlight

Qi Bin Li and Athena Thomas Still Call SJC Home

By Christina Ament

It only takes a day at St. Joseph's College to see the many opportunities the school provides for its students. In fact, the college continues to provide some students with opportunities even after they graduate in the form of jobs.

Two students who were members of the Class of 2007, Qi Bin Li and Athena Thomas, are amongst the newest employees of St. Joseph's College, having started working full time after they graduated in June.

Bin was a double major in Business Administration and Accounting. He now works as a Student Life Specialist, helping to coordinate programs, publicity and publications of the Office of Student Life.

Athena Thomas was a former history and social science major with a concentration in political science. She is now an Alumni Relations Officer. She helps plan and coordinate special events for alumni, such as fundraising, luncheons, dinners, donor receptions, networking and reunions.

"I love it here," said Bin. "I have been working at Student Life since my freshman year as a work-study student. I had a lot of fun working and meeting with different people. I am very excited about all of the activities that we plan for the students," he added.

Bin believes that his position will be helpful towards achieving his future goals. He plans on studying for his Master's degree in Business.

"The job at St. Joe's will help me pay my tuition and give me experience for a later career," he said.

Similarly, Athena is enjoying her current position as an Alumni Relations Officer. With this job, she has the "opportunity to meet alumni and learn about different occupations, since they are in so many different fields," she said.

In the future, Athena would like to apply to law school and to the

Master's program in Criminal Justice and John Jay College of City University of New York.

Many former students are now employed full time at St. Joseph's College. Included in that number are



Qi Bin Li



Athena Thomas

Jaimie Vacca-Hoefner, who works as the Assistant to Director of Co-Curricular Programs Sherrie VanArnam as well as Janine Farraj, Samantha Saines, Christopher Burke, Erin Dorso, Grace Marie Varone and Sharon Christian. Even college president S. Elizabeth Hill is a graduate of St. Joseph's College!

It is apparent that the college likes to hire alumni for key positions at the school. "We have been here for four years and so we have an easier time adapting to the work environment," said Bin. "The college and the employers know the particular students' abilities and their capabilities for the jobs," he added.

As graduates of St. Joe's, the college is well aware of the time of work ethic each student brings to their terms of employment. "They know that alumni of St. Joe's can be trusted to do important tasks," said Athena. "Alumni students can help the current students who need advice because these past students are more apt to understand what students are going through," she added.

Of course, some adjustment on the part of the new employees has been necessary. "It's a strange feeling that I don't have any classes to go to," said Bin. Similarly, Athena said, "I was used to going to class, writing papers and meeting deadlines. In one way, I miss being a student."

Though both Bin and Athena plan on continuing their education, they have now learned what it is like in the 'real world.' "Earning a living can be difficult," said Athena.

Bin, too, has learned a major lesson: "Work is a serious matter. There is no more room for laziness. Deadlines are important."

Bin further suggests that current students should obtain experience in their fields of interest by participating in internships or work study. He believes that having such experience will provide "a great way to establish connections and obtain experience in a particular career."

And so the employment rolls at St. Joseph's College expand, with talented alumni signing on as the newest members of the working community.

SJC Jazz Ensemble Shows Swing's the Thing

By Mark Wilson

It may have been the Christmas season, but the music was timeless on December 6th as the SJC Jazz Ensemble presented "An Evening with the Jazz Ensemble" in the auditorium of Tuohy Hall.

The group, founded in 2004 by John Castaldo, Carmine Cammarata, Jennifer Ciago and Michael Multari, has been one of the premier performing groups at the college since its inception.

Their holiday concert was a follow-up to their widely heralded performance at the Alumni Association's "Wine Tasting Event" in the fall.

"We had been planning on something new and exciting, and we got a chance to reveal it at our concert," said John Castaldo. That 'something' was a new group called

the Preparatory Ensemble, which is designed to give vocally talented SJC students an outlet in which they can hone their skills.

Under the leadership of Jazz Ensemble assistant director Amanda Gavigan, the Preparatory Ensemble stole the show as they displayed the products of their many hours of hard work. Vocalists Atiba Theophile and Patrick Mahon took to the stage and left the crowd cheering for more.

Even S. Margaret Buckley was seen tapping her feet to the ensemble's timely beat!

Featured jazz musicians also included guitarists Brian Mann, Joseph O'Connor, Joseph Rotondo and drummers Robert Texter and David Christgau, who displayed their talents on instrumental jazz tunes.

"I decided to augment the program we planned with some different songs to give balance to the show," said Castaldo, "so we added some bonus songs including doo-wop and oldies tunes played with a jazz flare," he added.

The meetings of the SJC Jazz Ensemble are practice sessions at which the group sharpens their jazz stylings and explores the full repertoire of jazz music in America.

"We get to try out a lot of tunes before we make a final selection of what we want to perform," said Castaldo.

During the performance, Patrick Mahon sang, "Then You Can Tell Me Goodbye," and as the band wrapped up its set, it was evident from the audience's reaction that no one was ready to tell them goodbye.



SJC Jazz Ensemble Spreads Christmas Cheer

THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

What is your major goal for the second semester?



My goals for next semester are to get a 3.5 index and do well in the talent show too.

—Trevor Plass



Next semester I would like to finish planning my wedding and complete all my classes so I can graduate.

—Magdalena Wiecek



My goal next semester is to have a successful first season for the new SJC Baseball Team.

—Juan Cruz



I would like to make the best of my remaining time at SJC and be able to finish out my last year on the basketball team and go to the nationals.

—Tara Deahn



Next semester, I want to stay on top of all my classwork and not have any failing classes.

—Dale Singh



My goal for next semester is to get a job, a new car, a puppy and a 4.0 GPA.

—Stephanie Morabito



My goals are defining who I am, analyzing myself, and learning the significance of everything in my life.

—Stephanie Ruiz



My goal next term is to make sure I stay on top of my work and make extracurriculars come second.

—Christian Branch



My goal next semester is to balance my studies with my extracurricular activities and not be so stressed.

—Shaniqua Smith



Next semester I just want to graduate and get out of here. I think it has been long overdue.

—Grazia Gustave



I want to study the chapters before the lesson so I can come to class prepared to have questions for the professor.

—Sade Peter



My goal for next term is to do well enough in my classes to remain a biology major

—Joelle Etienne

Candlelight Vigil Memorializes AIDS Victims

AIDS Quilt a Graphic Tribute to Millions who Died

By Ervin Maddox

The numbers are as staggering as they are frightening: since its identification as a disease in 1981, AIDS has claimed more than 25 million lives worldwide. To put that in perspective, the bubonic plague of the 14th century killed 1/3 of the population of Europe—roughly 22 million lives, and that in an age where medicine was as primitive as public health and personal hygiene.

AIDS has proven to be the scourge of the late 20th-early 21st century. Though some medicines for treatment are currently in use, and have been able to extend the lives of AIDS patients, the medical world is no closer to a cure or preventive vaccine than it was 25 years ago.

In the past, St. Joseph's College has done its part to raise funds for AIDS care and treatment. In particular, Chapel Players, in conjunction with Broadway Cares, has been a consistent contributor and fundraiser to help those who currently suffer from the disease.

This year marked the 2nd Annual AIDS Candlelight Vigil on the campus of SJC which took place on Thursday November 29th on the Mall.

The moving ceremony commemorated those who have died of the disease and expressed hopes that in time, AIDS, like other killer diseases such as polio and tuberculosis, would become a thing of the past.

The ceremony included songs such as "Beautiful City" from the Broadway musical *Godspell*, "Waiting for the

World to Change," and "What the World Needs Now is Love."

Introductory remarks were made by SGA president Adam Mace and the Langston Hughes poem "Dreams" was read by Samanta Labady. Another reading, "Walking in my Footsteps," by Randy McClave was read by Christian Branch.

Following the outdoor ceremony, the candlelight procession crossed the campus and arrived at the Alumni Room in Touhy Hall, where a portion of the AIDS quilt was on display.

The AIDS quilt, founded in 1987, is a poignant memorial and a powerful tool for use in preventing new HIV infections. It is the largest ongoing community arts project in the world.

The quilt currently consists of more than 40,000 colorful panels that memorialize the lives of people lost to AIDS. Many of the panels contain just the name of a victim, while others have personal sentiments from family members and friends.

Standing before even a small section of the quilt is a stark reminder of the terrible toll that AIDS has taken in America and worldwide. Unfortunately, the size of the quilt grows each year as more people fall victim to the disease.

The AIDS memorial event was co-sponsored by Chapel Players, the Choral Society and the Office of Student Life with the avowed purpose of bringing an awareness to the SJC community, the extent and danger of

the disease, as well as honoring those who have lost their lives to AIDS.

"The 1st AIDS Candlelight Vigil was a success and we wanted to build upon this tradition to provide AIDS awareness to the college community," said Assistant to the Director of Co-curricular Programs, Jaimie Vacca-Hoeffner.

If money is a measure of the severity of a disease, then AIDS ranks at the very top of the list in resources expended on a cure. In 1999, the federal budget allocated 6 billion dollars to AIDS research and education. In fiscal 2007, over 2 billion dollars was allocated for research alone.

Additionally, the Bush administration committed another 6 billion dollars to AIDS treatment and education in Africa—the continent most ravaged by the disease.

"The Candlelight Vigil might seem like a very small thing in the overall fight against AIDS," said sophomore Marsha Desrosiers, "but if you have enough of these types of events, maybe people will finally become aware and take steps to prevent the spread of the disease," she added.

Following the viewing of the AIDS quilt, refreshments were served to the participants. The proceeds from the sale of baked goods were to be donated to Dancers Responding to AIDS, one of the many arts groups nationally and citywide that are reaching out to AIDS victims to help them with meals, expenses and general care.



Still holding their candles, students view the AIDS Quilt

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ST. JOSEPH'S SPORTS



THE SPORTING LIFE

BY MARK WILSON

A GENERATION OF CHEATERS

When you write for a newspaper, you better meet your deadlines or else the editor-in-chief gets all rowdy and the adviser turns purple. Sometimes, I've been, ahem, a bit tardy on those deadlines, for which I apologize to the whole staff.

But I've got to tell you, this is one time I'm kind of glad I missed it—because it gave me a chance to weigh in on one of the most important sports documents of our time—the Mitchell Report.

The Mitchell Report, which was released Thursday, December 13, 2007, revealed the names of major League baseball players who have been found to use steroids, HGH and other illegal substances.

The report indicates that such star players as Roger Clemens, And Petite, Miguel Tejada and, gasp, Barry Bonds, are all amongst the 80 or so players named as users in the scandal.

The list includes such past and present stars as Lenny Dykstra, Pudge Rodriguez, and Mark McGwire. Even young players like Derrick Turnbow and former Met big-mouth Paul LoDuca have tried their hands at HGH.

Whatever the rules were at the time, or whatever they are currently need not even be considered. These players cheated, and there is nothing they can do to repair the damage they have caused to the fans' faith in the game and individual stars.

Some will argue that such drugs as androstenedione, made famous by Mark McGwire, were, at one point legal, and not prohibited by MLB. Quite frankly, who cares? Did Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Willie Mays or Hank Aaron have any androstenedione or HGH or steroids available to them?

Of course not. They had, what many major league players lack today (other than integrity): talent!

How can we, as fans, accept anything any player has done up until now? Everything is now tarnished. I shudder to think about what players were not mentioned in the report and have now gotten a free pass.

And I even feel worse for all those players who had to get by only on talent and hard work—rather than drug-enhanced muscles and endurance.

Now the blame game will inevitably begin. The Commissioner will blame the union and the union will blame the commissioner. No one is going to admit that they

allowed Major League Baseball suffer a black eye that even the world's largest steak couldn't soothe.

Want to know who is to blame? I'll tell you: *everybody!* The Commissioner is to blame. The gutless wonder that he is, he needs to stand up to the players and their union and he needs to implement harsh drug testing with *zero*—that's right—*zero* tolerance and zero second chances.

It's simple, really: you cheat—you're out. If they find the slightest trace of anything other than a multi-vitamin or a prescription drug in you, you're gone, along with your zillion dollar contract.

Such cheaters should be banned for life. Call Pete Rose what you will; the man was banned for life for gambling, but these players are blatantly cheating.

The union is to blame. The MLPA deserves words that can't be printed in a college newspaper, or for that matter, in any newspaper. They are the most greedy group of individuals are the reason the game is in the shape it's in today.

When the spineless commish even thinks about imposing a fine on a player or coach who throws a temper tantrum at an umpire, the union is the first to appeal on the grounds that it is unfair.

The union has made MLB players into an assemblage of those kind of kids you hated in school: you know, the ones who would say, "Wait till my daddy hears about this."

The union has made too many excuses and now we will see what further damage it can do to the once American Pastime.

The owners are to blame. They are businessmen who care nothing about integrity, as long as their stars can put backsides into the seats. The stronger the players, the more fans come to the games. Ka-ching! There's your bottom line.

Many complain that ball players are being paid exorbitant amounts of money for playing a child's game. Watch now as they all start acting like children who got caught filching quarters from their mothers' wallets. They will lie, deny and do whatever else it takes to shift the blame to someone else.

Like children, they will hide behind their agents. They will make excuses. They will accuse Mitchell of lying—when it is *they* who are the liars.

My suggestion? Go to a Little League game. Watch the boys who play like men instead of the men who act like boys.

Men's Basketball Start with Ups and Downs

By Gregory Creamer

It's been a mixed bag for the SJC Bears Men's Basketball Team at the start of the 2007-2008 season.

Though the team's overall record is a middling 4-4, they have managed to go 3-0 in Hudson Valley Athletic Association competition, keeping their hopes alive for a repeat as conference champs.

The Bears went to a new of traveling this year, flying for the first time to Cincinnati where they took part in the College of Mount Saint Joseph Tip-Off Classic.

The Bears had high hopes heading into the game, believing they had a great shot at winning the tournament after several strong practices. The team had added some much-needed depth with the addition of transfer student Wilkerson Exantus, Justin Gist, Jon Matzelle and Lewis Monaco.

First up for the Bears was the host team of the tourney, the College of Mount Saint Joseph. The host Lions shot an amazing 70% from beyond the arc, building a huge lead of 63-34

before the half. The second half proved to be no more successful for the Bears, as the Lions shot a remarkable 65% from the field for the entire game.

The Bears found themselves overmatched and out-rebounded. But on the positive side, they had a balanced attack with Jon Matzelle leading the way with 15 points, Ervin Maddox adding 14, Justin Gist 13 and Przemyslaw Kudla bucketing 10 for the game.

"We were upset about the loss, but our spirits were still high," said Kudla. "We still felt we could come out and compete with the next team and get a victory," he added.

But the result against Illinois College was no better. The Bears fell behind early, at one point by as many as 21 points. With Illinois shooting an impressive 64% in the second half, the Blue Boys coasted to an easy 91-73 victory.

Justin Gist was named to the All-Tournament team after scoring

another 14 points in the Bears' second game.

The team's fortunes turned around against Mount Saint Vincent, a game the Bears won 78-61. Ervin Maddox led the way with 20 points and Gist added 17. But the victory proved costly as Przemyslaw Kudla collided with Dolphin forward Dwight Dunkley and took 12 stitches in the chin. He will be out until he receives medical clearance to return.

Conference victories against Sarah Lawrence College (74-40) and Berkeley College (77-68) followed. The victory against Berkeley was particularly sweet since the Bears had lost to Berkeley in tournament finals the last two years.

Two more defeats and a victory against Williamson Free Trade by a score of 77-58 left the Bears with their current record.

Conference play resumes after intersession and the Bears hope to be on track for another run at the HVAC title.



Ervin Maddox eludes two defenders



Championship Lady Bears Volleyball Team

Lady Bears Volleyball Team Cops 4th Title in a Row

By Przemek Kudla

Unstoppable, or perhaps unbeatable are just two of the words used to describe the St. Joseph's College Lady Bears Volleyball Team.

Coming into the 2007 season with last year's roster virtually intact, and plenty of on-court experience, few were surprised when the Lady Bears once again dominated the Hudson Valley Conference and won the conference title for an unprecedented fourth consecutive year.

After going an impressive 24-0 in conference play this season, the Lady Bears were poised to cop the school's first ever USCAA Championship. Unfortunately, the Lady Bears fell to Spaulding College of Kentucky in the tournament, which was held in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

However, failure to win the USCAA tournament could not diminish the achievement of the Lady Bears during the 2007 season.

Senior outside hitter and Most Valuable Player in the HVWAC tournament, Magdalena Wiecek,

turned in another impressive season. "She went out with a bang!" said junior team member Bala Huseinovic, of Wiecek's performance.

Along with her MVP honors, Wiecek was the first AD31 Player of the Week for the week ending September 22. This was the first time a Lady Bear received the honor in volleyball since becoming an AD31 member in 2006. She was also selected as Honorable Mention member of the USCAA National All-American Team.

Other key players for the Lady Bears were Svetlana Medvedeva and Tamara Buletovic. As an outside hitter, Svetlana, a senior was named to the USCAA's National All-American Team for her play during the season.

Tamara Buletovic, another powerful front line attacker, also was named to the Hudson Valley All-Conference Team. She was also named AD31 Player of the Week for the week ending October 31,

2007, thus becoming the second Lady Bear to win the honor this season.

"We did the best we possibly could and thankfully we won the Hudson Valley Conference Championship," said Bala Huseinovic.

But Huseinovic pointed out a potentially dark cloud that looms on the horizon: "Hopefully we can do the same thing again next year, though we are losing key players like Marzena Stadnicka, Magda Wiecek, Svetlana Medvedeva and Christina Ament." These four players have been conference champions for their entire college careers!

For head coach Michael Schober and assistant coaches Mario Tang and Sylwia Schober, rebuilding will be job one if the Lady Bears expect to repeat for a fifth year in a row.

The loss of the team's All-Americans will leave a long road ahead for the coaches and players, but for now, all the Lady Bears can revel in their triumphant four-peat and another championship trophy.